

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 /073 W
-----106458 110518Z /20

R 101317Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9894
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0184

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XF, AG, EG
SUBJECT: BOUMEDIENE IN KUWAIT

1. IN WHAT WAS BILLED AS THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE TALK WITH
A FELLOW HEAD OF STATE, THE NEW AMIR OF KUWAIT PLAYED HOST
TO ALGERIA'S BOUMEDIENE FOR A DAY AND A HALF (JAN. 9-10),
THE LATTER HAVING ARRIVED FROM QATAR AND DEPARTING FOR
JORDAN. THE AGENDA HERE REPORTEDLY INCLUDED THE
WESTERN SAHARA, THE TRIPOLI SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND
EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. SOME PAPERS CARRIED
COMMENTS OF "RELIABLE SOURCES" TO THE EFFECT THAT
BOUMEDIENE ASKED FOR KUWAITI SUPPORT FOR THE ANTI-
SADAT "FRONT" FORMED AT TRIPOLI, BUT THAT THE KUWAITIS
REPLIED THAT FULL ARAB UNITY BASED ON PREVIOUS RABAT
DECISIONS WAS NOW REQUIRED OF THE ARAB WORLD. OTHER PRESS
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REPORTS INDICATED THAT BOUMEDIENE WAS TOLD THAT KUWAIT'S
POSITION ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE DEPENDS ENTIRELY UPON
WHAT THE PLO DESIRES. ALGERIAN SOURCES HERE WERE
QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ALGERIAN AND KUWAITI VIEWS WERE
IDENTICAL AND THAT BOUMEDIENE WAS "SATISFIED" WITH THE
KUWAIT POSITION.

2. BOUMEDIENE'S VISIT CAME ONE DAY AFTER THE KUWAITI CABINET HAD DISCUSSED A MESSAGE FROM PRES.SADAT TO THE AMIR ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL. AFTER THE CABINET MEETING, GOK MINISTER FOR CABINET AFFAIRS HUSSEIN RESPONDED TO A PRESS QUERY ON EGYPT'S POLICY BY ASSERTING THAT SADAT'S LETTER HAD SAID THAT EGYPT "ADHERES TO THE POSITION OF SETTING UP A PALESTINIAN STATE." THE KUWAITI MINISTER ADDED THAT KUWAIT "INSISTS UPON SETTING IT UP IN ADDITION TO GIVING PALESTINIANS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THEIR FATE BY THEMSELVES." ONE PRESS REPORT HAS THE MINISTER SAYING THAT ANY PALESTINIAN LINK WITH JORDAN IS UP TO THE PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES TO DECIDE.

3. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY SOURCE REPORTS THAT SADAT MAY COME TO "PAY CONDOLENCES" IN KUWAIT, BUT THAT THE TIMING OF THE VISIT IS NOT FIRM.

4. COMMENT: NEITHER "OFFICIAL SOURCES" SPEAKING AFTER BOUMEDIENE'S ARRIVAL NOR MINISTER HUSSEIN'S REPORTED PRIOR REMARKS INDICATED ANY MARKED DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS KUWAITI PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI RAPPROCHEMENT, THOUGH THE MINISTER'S REVELATION OF PART OF THE ALLEGED CONTENTS OF SADAT'S LETTER TO THE AMIR COULD BE SEEN AS A TACIT DEFENSE OF SADAT'S POSITION ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION. IN REVEALING THIS, THE GOK SPOKESMAN
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WENT A BIT FURTHER THAN BEFORE IN EXPOSING WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE SUBSTANTIAL KUWAITI AGREEMENT WITH SADAT'S GOALS. WE CANNOT BELIEVE THAT BOUMEDIENE WAS MUCH ENCOURAGED BY HIS VISIT TO KUWAIT.
MAESTRONE

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